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EXHIBIT 11
DATE 2/3/09
HB 382

From:

Michael Sherrard
923 Turner Avenue
Shelby, Montana
406-424-5087

HB 382
HEARING AT 3:00 PM TODAY

Please distribute to the following:

All members of House Fish Wildlife and Parks
committee.

Representative Roy Hollandsworth, Ledger

Representative Llou Jones, Conrad

*Thank you for the 1st level
reception in House Home*

These are the people who are the problem
Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is
Michael Sherrard and I rise in opposition to HB 382. I have a
Bachelor of Science in Upper Elementary Education with an
area of concentration in History and Physical Education. I
worked as an officer for US Customs at the Port of Piegan. I
have also have an accumulative record of 58 years as an
instructor for Hunter and Bowhunter Education in Toole County.

I was born and raised on a farm ranch 60 north of
I am not an old fossil incapable of accepting or
implementing new ideas. I helped change the legal language
from "only parent or guardian" to "any adult with parental or
guardian consent" for hunting mentors. The remedial Hunter
Education program for ticketed law breakers came about from
me at a region four workshop, when Tim Poole was the Hunter
Education lead from FWP.

with
I am reminded of remarks recently from then Senator Biden
now Vice President Biden when he quoted Montana's legendary
statesmen, Senator Mike Mansfield. Senator Biden had just lost
his wife and family members in a tragedy and was having
trouble understanding the reason for pending legislation.
Senator Mansfield took him aside and stated "Never question the
motive only the individuals judgment."

only thing I have 5 tons of
I will not question the motives only the individuals and
outside groups judgment pertaining to children hunting with
weapons. There is no difference between drug and petrifies
praying on innocent children or damage resulting from accidents
or death from firearms. FWP Hunter Education Leader Mr.
Thomas Baumeister, at regional meetings repeatedly provided
statistics from parties outside the State of Montana for youths
under the age of 12 that had no accidents. Mr. Mark Hinkle
outdoor editor for the Billings Gazette contacted Minnesota
Department of natural Recourses and found many accidents and

Handwritten note at bottom: Hunter Education were watched on state website

deaths. Two examples are as follows. A ten year old in a duck boat with his father, shot once, swung and removed his father's head, an eleven year old walking on a frozen dike slipped fell and discharged a round that removed the 17 year old mentors lungs. Now these were deaths, not accidents so maybe they do not belong in the statistics section. Recently at our regional hunter education meeting 4 or 5 instructors supported some form of change but 140 other instructors voted for no change to the present system. O another warm fuzzy is now taking place in South Dakota, outside interests are trying to get Sportsmen to support a One dollar increase in fees for road improvements and weed control. ^{you're kidding} Nice thought, it will only cost the state \$10,000,000.00 of federal money, as reported by the Great Falls paper. 100% of children younger then 12 have not completed maturity of the brains frontal lobe. This is where cognizant responsibility for actions plus recognition of consequence has not completely developed, putting children in killing situations with out developed judgment, is not in the best interest of the child, or the future of hunting in Montana.

The physical characteristics of a child under 12 creates difficulty when competently handle firearms. In Toole County we provide a single shot 410 for live fire, even this light firearm is difficult to control for many youths. If we compare a 40 lbs child to a 200 lbs adult with equality in firearm weight, a child is to use a 7 pound weapon then the equivalent weight for the adult would be 35 lbs. I know few adults who can successfully carry, let alone successfully aim and fire accurately a 35 lb weapon. Is this a special interest for "Daddy tags", some warped testosterone laden individual trying to recreate a child prodigy? Whoops I said I would only question the judgment not the motive.

Mr. Chairman and members of this committee I respectfully submit the following. Montana's 2008 Hunting season began in March with Black Bear season and concludes with Falconry season in March 31 of 2009. We effectively have a year round hunting season in Montana. When are we as Hunter Education instructors supposed to legally teach the youth in our communities? An example for HB 221 is if a youth turns 11 by March 31, 2009 and wishes to participate in the 2008 spring bear hunt we would effectively be teaching 9 ½ and 10 year olds hunter education. Or is the goal for the parents to complete the child's the online computer course and circumvent classroom Hunter and bowhunter education courses?

Or are Hunter and Bowhunter education instructors going the way of the dinosaur? I feel we are harvesting the crops planted by Hunter and Bowhunter education instructors since 1959 that have reduced the rate of injury and death dramatically among the Hunting community in Montana. As a child every fall radio and newspaper articles heralded the human loss of life. Our hunter education youth are providing the leadership roles as adults in our community. Every year I learn something new in our classes.

Statistic supplied sometimes leave gray areas. Recently a child of 7 was ill and could not attend school. His mother laid down for a well deserved nap. The knock on her door from an officer alerted her to the fact that the child had taken the key drove the car 6 miles and crashed within several blocks of school. Using these statistics we could safely allow all Montana children at the age of 7 to drive 5 miles with out ^{Cause} an accident. Statistics prove this statement.

Provide an alternate to this statement
Two years ago I co-founded an Adult Ladies Hunter *today you* Education program taught by Adult ladies. The first year we had

in 1000 Counties

23 ladies take the course. Five to seven hunted for the first time. Last year 21 ladies successfully completed the course with six new lady hunters harvesting in the field. This is where we need to concentrate our efforts, if we are to incorporate more people in hunting.

If you do pass this bill I would ask for an amendment. Please require that those supporters of this bill are required for each and every reported accident to or from said group a fee of \$875,432.00 in the result of death to or from said children a fee of \$14,075,432.00. The judgment peculating from the supporters should put their check book where their statistics lie. Or require the supporters to be listed in the every news release for every accident or death to or from said children's group. Please defeat House Bill 382. Thank you for your time.

*to provide medical fees -
have*

*Attorney - could be if
10 people go out -*

*You can still take children to
hunt -*